

U.S. Patent Application 09/965,740  
Response to Restriction Requirement

### REMARKS

This responds to the Examiner's Action of March 23, 2005. The Examiner has required restriction between claims 1-46 and 51 (Group I) and claims 47-50 (Group II). Applicants elect to prosecute the claims of Group I in the present application and accordingly cancel without prejudice the nonelected claims of Group II.

Applicants amend the title of the invention to reflect that the "method of making" claims have been canceled and that some of the claims recite materials that may not be absorbent.

Applicants also amend some of the claims for clarity. The recitation of "enhanced surface area" in claim 1 is amended to read "enhanced surface" to avoid the claim being misread as requiring that the surface area of the substrate be greater than normal. Claim 1 is also amended to reflect that the recited polymer is a polymer of "antimicrobial monomeric moities." Claims 2, 3, and 5 are amended to conform wording to the language of amended claim 1.

Claim 6 is amended to remove from the recitation certain uses that would be inconsistent with the recitation in claim 1 that the substrate be flexible and to remove the open-endedness of the last clause of the claim as filed.

Claim 8 is amended to remove the superfluous recitation of illustrative examples of synthetic polymers. See also new claim 57. Claim 22 is similarly amended. See also new claim 64.

Claim 12 is amended to remove the recitation "and the like." Claims 26 and 40 are similarly amended.

Claim 14 is amended to remove the recitation "and similar compounds" and instead to express that concept in a more specific manner, namely by changing "diallyldimethylammonium" to diallyldialkylammonium and by changing "vinylbenzyltrimethylammonium" to vinylbenzyltrialkylammonium. Claims 28 and 42 are similarly amended.

Claim 16 is amended in conformity with the amendments discussed above in connection with claim 1. Claims 17 and 18 are amended in conformity with the amendments to claims 2 and 3.

Claim 20 is amended to remove from the recitation certain uses that would be inconsistent with the recitation in claim 16 that the substrate be flexible and that the material be superabsorbent and to remove the open-endedness of the last clause of the claim as filed.

Claim 34 is amended to remove the open-endedness of the last clause of the claim as filed.

Each of the aforesaid amendments is not for a reason of patentability that should affect the claim's coverage of equivalents.

Claims 52 to 69 are new. Each is dependent on an originally-presented claim within the elected Group I. Each is supported by disclosure in the specification as filed. It is respectfully averred on information and belief that none of the amendments to the present claims presents new matter.

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Respectfully submitted:

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